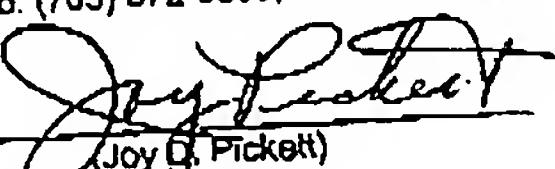


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (703) 872-9306, on the date shown below.
 Dated: 4.22.05 Signature: 
 Joy D. Pickett

APR 22 2005
 Docket No.: 21806-00156-US
 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
 Chatty, Kiran V. et al.

Application No.: 10/605,699

Filed: October 21, 2003

For: **METHOD AND STRUCTURE TO SUPPRESS
 EXTERNAL LATCHUP**

Confirmation No.: 2698

Art Unit: 2818

Examiner: Vu, David

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed March 22, 2005, applicant hereby provisionally elects Group II, Claims 1-31 for continued examination, with traverse.

The outstanding Office Action has required restriction between:
 Group I, Claims 32-51, drawn to process of designing an integrated circuit, classified in Class 716, and Subclass 1; and

Group II, Claims 1-31, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in Class 257, Subclass 357.

Applicants make these elections based on the understanding that Applicants are not prejudiced against filing one or more divisional applications that cover the non-elected claims.

Application No.: 10/605,699

Attorney Docket No.: 21806-00156-US

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reasons.

MPEP Section 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

In particular, the claims of the present invention would appear to be part of the same technology area. Though the Commissioner may require restriction if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application (37 CFR 1.142(a)), in the present case, the claimed subject matter may be classified in different subclasses of the same class and Applicants respectfully submit the inventions are not independent. That is, Applicants respectfully submit that an examination of one set of claims will require a search in the classes common to the same technology area.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn. However, if the present Restriction Requirement is not withdrawn, examination on the merits of Claims 1-31 is believed in order and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/605,699

Attorney Docket No.: 21806-00156-US

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-3223, under Order No. 21806-00156-US, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 22, 2005
32022_1

Respectfully submitted,

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